

Frequently Asked Questions Regulations for Family Foster Homes Effective March 28, 2008

For Foster Parents:

- **Do foster parents licensed before March 28, 2008 have to complete the new prelicensure training requirements (instructor-led first-aid; universal precautions; and medication administration)? K.A.R. 28-4-806(a); pp. 33 – 34.**

Foster parents licensed prior to March 28, 2008 are not required by regulation to complete these trainings. However, policies regarding training requirements are determined by each child-placing agency, so foster parents will need to refer to their sponsoring agency's policies. In addition, because these trainings provide important health and safety information, it is recommended that foster parents complete each as a part of meeting their annual in-service requirements.

- **May the required critical incident reports be submitted to the sponsoring child-placing agency by email? What about the required signature? K.A.R. 28-4-807(d)(2); pp. 36 – 37.**

It would meet licensing requirements to email the report by the next working day. The identity (first and last names) of the sender and the recipient must be clearly identified. A copy could then be printed and placed in the file at the family foster home. Foster parents should check with their sponsoring child-placing agency to determine if the agency policy requires additional steps.

- **For those who do not have email, does the report need to be *mailed* by the next working day or *received* by the next working day?**

To meet licensing requirements, the report would need to be mailed by the next working day. Again, check with the sponsoring child-placing agency regarding agency timeline requirements.

- **How long do foster parents need to retain copies of critical incident reports once a specific child is no longer in placement?**

Foster parents should check with their sponsoring child-placing agency to determine the agency's policy in regard to this issue.

- **In reference to substitute caregivers and the 3 year age difference between the caregiver and the oldest child in foster care, what happens if there is a difference between a child in foster care's chronological age and developmental age? K.A.R. 28-4-811(c); p. 42.**

To determine compliance with the regulation, the child's chronological age would be used.

- **May a child in foster care be a substitute caregiver if he/she meets the 3-year age difference requirement? Does the answer change if the child in foster care is 18 years of age?**

No, a child in foster care would not meet the requirements for a substitute caregiver within the family foster home unless he/she is caring for his/her own child and this has been addressed in the case plan. If assessed appropriate, a child in foster care may babysit in another home.

- **Is smoking allowed in an unattached garage? Attached garage? Porch or deck? Enclosed porch? K.A.R. 28-4-819(f); p. 59.**

An attached garage, enclosed porch and an enclosed breezeway would be considered part of the structure of the house and therefore smoking in those areas would be prohibited. However, smoking would not be prohibited in an unattached garage, in an open breezeway, or on an open porch or deck provided the individual who is smoking is not within 10 feet of a child in foster care.

- **Are trundle beds considered to be a permanent or temporary bed? K.A.R. 28-4-821(g); p. 65**

Trundle beds are considered to be temporary beds.

- **Does a bed have to have a frame?**

To be considered a permanent bed, the bed would require a frame.

For Child Placing Agency Staff:

- **What is the procedure for initial applicants in regard to prelicensure training (first aid, universal precautions, medication administration)?**

An applicant whose temporary permit is issued on or after March 28, 2008 will need to complete these requirements prior to the issuance of a full license. Given that these are new requirements, if an applicant has difficulty getting the trainings completed, it is possible to request the temporary permit be extended one additional 90 day period.

- **What is the procedure for renewal surveys in regard to annual in-service requirements?**

For renewal surveys with annual review dates between March 28, 2008 and October 1, 2008, this will be treated as a consultation issue. Licensees will need to meet the previous requirement of at least 6 clock-hours of in-service training.

Surveyors are to offer consultation that a minimum of 8 clock-hours of in-service training must be completed by the next annual review date, with a minimum of 2 clock-hours being participation in group training. For renewals with an annual review date on or after October 1, 2008, the expectation is that each licensee be in full compliance with the regulation.

- **If a currently licensed foster family moves to a new home and therefore must submit a new application, would the foster parents then have to complete the prelicensure training (first-aid, universal precautions, and medication administration)?**

Yes; the move would require an initial application and all prelicensure training requirements would have to be met before a full license would be issued.